



**Health**  
Health Reform Transitional  
Organisation Western

Trim Ref: WCSCFC11/2-02  
File: WCSCD11/865

Major Cities Unit  
Department of Infrastructure and Transport  
Australian Government  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

*Re: Draft framework of the Australian Urban Design Protocol*

Population Health services in the former Sydney South West Area Health Service aimed to protect and promote the health of the local population. This priority continues in the new organisational structure. We recognise that many personal, local and global factors affect health and illness. One of our strategic directions is to develop our capacity to influence healthy urban design and work with planning agencies to develop healthy urban environments. In recent times we have been involved with other NSW government departments and local government in redevelopment projects and new developments, including having led and participated in Health Impact Assessments (HIA).

NSW Health has recently developed a Healthy Urban Development Checklist to provide guidance to health workers for commenting on development policies, plans and proposals. We encourage the Major Cities Unit to consider the principles and information in the Checklist and their usability for the Australian Urban Design Protocol. A copy of the Checklist is available online at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/pdf/hud\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/pdf/hud_checklist.pdf) and a hard copy can be provided on request.

We wish to contribute to the consultation on the draft framework of the Australian Urban Design Protocol due to our interest in developing environments that promote and support the health of the communities that live in them. The principles, directions and priorities contained in this important document can help to create the conditions and environments that protect and promote the health of existing and future communities and encourage environmental sustainability.

We wish to make the following general comments about the draft framework:

- In general we find that the document is a clear and concise summary of the key urban design principles for people and places. The document also links the principles in a clear and useful way.
- The goals are well articulated and we are pleased that they include "healthy communities" as a goal. They provide tangible and achievable national targets.
- The purpose of the document is not entirely clear and neither is how the document will be used. A description of the range of possible uses for the protocol in the Introduction or Objectives section (page 3) would be useful.

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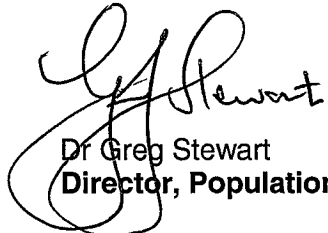
- “Health” receives good attention throughout the document but could be referred on page 3 as an additional outcome of our cities (in the Introduction) and on page 4 as an additional influence of urban design.
- There is an absence of the contribution of **food** to economic, social, environmental, cultural and health impacts of urban design in the document. There is a direct relationship between healthy food and the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. This could be enhanced in the framework in relation to access to healthy food, protection of local food production and social and cultural connectivity through food.
- It would be useful to link the document and specific goals to the Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) city planning reforms.
- We support the principle of engagement on page 11 and acknowledge that urban design is about creating places for people with people. Urban design should be undertaken collaboratively and in consultation with the community.

More specific suggestions and comments in relation to the document are:

- Page 11 – The related concept of “living affordability” should specifically include housing affordability
- Page 12 – Include “places to interact and meet” in the attributes for the *Vibrant* principle
- Page 12 – regarding the principle of *Safety*, include the following attributes:
  - Opportunities for natural surveillance
  - Visibility, appropriate lighting and signage
- Page 13 – regarding the principle *Connected*, include the following attribute:
  - Reduce car dependency
- Page 13 – in relation to the principle *Diverse*, include
  - Diversity for all ages including children, young people and older people”
  - “Cultural diversity” in the related concepts

For any further information regarding the issues raised please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

  
 Dr Greg Stewart  
**Director, Population Health**

Date: 18/8/11